

sites used for the construction and maintenance of an unpaved, one-lane public road sufficient in width to meet the minimum requirements necessary to satisfy State law;

(2) meet all requirements for a public highway right-of-way under the laws of the State of Alaska; and

(3) include the right for the Aleutians East Borough, or its assignees to construct, operate, and maintain electrical, telephone, or other utility facilities and structures within the right-of-way.

#### SEC. 6. CONFORMING CHANGE.

Upon the offer of Corporation lands under section 4, the boundaries of the wilderness area within the Refuge are modified to exclude from wilderness designation a 100 foot wide corridor to accommodate the right-of-way within the following land sections—

(1) Sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, and 36 of T 56 S, R 87 W, Seward Meridian, Alaska.

(2) Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, and 36 of T 56 S, R 88 W, Seward Meridian, Alaska.

(3) Sections 1, 2, 11, and 12 of T 57 S, R 89 W, Seward Meridian, Alaska.

#### SEC. 7. RIGHT-OF-WAY LOCATION.

Unless otherwise agreed to by the Secretary and the Aleutians East Borough, the right-of-way granted under section 4 shall be located within—

(a) sections 2, 3, 10, and 11 of T 59 S, R 86 W, Seward Meridian, Alaska;

(b) sections 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35 of T 59 S, R 86 W, Seward Meridian, Alaska;

(c) sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 36 of T 58 S, R 87 W, Seward Meridian, Alaska;

(d) sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 20, 21, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, and 34 of T 57 S, R 87 W, Seward Meridian, Alaska;

(e) sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, and 36 of T 56 S, R 87 W, Seward Meridian, Alaska;

(f) sections 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, and 36 of T 56 S, R 88 W, Seward Meridian, Alaska;

(g) section 6 of T 37 S, R 88 W, Seward Meridian, Alaska; and

(h) sections 1, 2, 11, and 12 of T 57 S, R 89 W, Seward Meridian, Alaska.

#### SEC. 8. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

The following provisions of law shall not be applicable to any right-of-way granted under section 4 of this Act or to any road constructed on such right-of-way—

(1) section 22(g) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1621(g)).

(2) title XI of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3161 et seq.), except as specified in this section; and

(3) section 303(c) of title 49, United States Code.

SEC. 9. The Secretary and the Aleutians East Borough shall jointly prepare a plan setting forth—

(1) the times of the year a road may reasonably be constructed when there are not high concentrations of migratory birds in Kinzarof Lagoon; and

(2) limitations on non-emergency road traffic during periods of the year when there are high concentrations of migratory birds in Kinzarof Lagoon.

SEC. 10. If within 24 months of the date the King Cove Corporation offers to transfer to the United States all right, title, and interest of the Corporation lands set forth in Section 4 of this Act, the Secretary and the Aleutians East Borough fail to mutually agree on the following—

(1) a final land exchange and a grant of a right-of-way pursuant to Section 4; and

(2) the right-of-way specifications, and terms and conditions of use set forth in sections 5, 6, 7 and 8 of this Act;

then the Aleutians East Borough shall have the right to select a 60 foot right-of-way for

the construction, operation, and maintenance of certain utility-related fixtures and of a public road from lands described in Section 7 of this section, and to identify logistical staging areas and construction material sites within the right-of-way. If an agreement is not reached within 6 months after the Aleutians East Borough notifies the Secretary of its selection, then the right-of-way is hereby granted to the Borough.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be allowed to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday October 1, 1998. The purpose of this meeting will be to mark up the nomination of Michael Reyna to be a member of the Farm Credit Administration Board and to mark up the USDA Information Technology Reform and Year 2000 Compliance Act (S2116).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Thursday, October 1, 1998, at 9:30 a.m., in open session, to receive testimony regarding plans for Department of Energy national security programs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, October 1, 1998 at 9:30 a.m. on S. 2494—Multichannel Video Competition Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, October 1, 1998 at 2:30 p.m. on pending committee business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 1, for purposes of conducting a full committee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this hearing is to consider the nominations of Eljay B. Bowron to be Inspector General, DOI; Rose Eilene Gottenmoeller to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Non-Pro-

liferation and National Security; and David Michaels to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environment, Safety and Health.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the full Committee on Environment and Public Works be granted permission to conduct a hearing to receive testimony from Greta Joy Dicus, nominated by the President to be a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (re-appointment), and Jeffery S. Merrifield, nominated by the President to be a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Thursday, October 1, at 11:00 a.m., Hearing Room (SD-406).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 1, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. to hold a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 1, 1998 at 10:30 a.m. to conduct a Markup, on S. 1870, to amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act; H.R. 1805, Auburn Indian Restoration Act; and S. 2097, to encourage and facilitate the resolution of conflicts involving Indian tribes, to be followed immediately by a hearing on S. 2010, to provide for business development and trade promotion for Native Americans. The hearing will be held in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to hold an executive business meeting during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 1, 1998, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, Oct. 1, 1998 at 2:30 p.m. in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building to hold a hearing on: "Judicial Nominations."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be

authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 1, 1998 at 10:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing on Capitol security issues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 1, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. to hold a closed business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 1, 1998 at 12:00 p.m. to hold a closed conference with the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence regarding the FY 99 Intelligence Authorization.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR, WETLANDS, PRIVATE PROPERTY AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property, and Nuclear Safety granted permission to conduct a hearing on regional haze and mercury pollution on Thursday, October 1, 1998 at 2:00 p.m., Hearing Room (SD-406).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 1, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2:30 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on Forest Service Cabin fees, and on S. 2513, a bill to transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land located within or adjacent to Rogue River National Forest and to clarify the authority of the Bureau of Land Management to sell and exchange other Federal land in Oregon; S. 2413, a bill to provide for the development of a management plan for the Woodland Lake Park tract in Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest in the State of Arizona reflecting the current use of the tract as a public park; and S. 2402, a bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain lands in San Juan Country, New Mexico, to San Juan College.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, PROLIFERATION, AND FEDERAL SERVICES

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the

Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on International Security, proliferation, and Federal Services to meet on Thursday, October 1, 1998, at 2:00 p.m. for its annual postal oversight hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### AGRICULTURE CRISIS IN RURAL AMERICA

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I would like to take a few minutes to talk about a subject of great importance to my home state of Illinois—falling farm prices and the impending economic crisis in Rural America.

Illinois is one of our country's most important agricultural contributors. Illinois farm land, which accounts for about 27 million acres, is considered some of the most productive in the world. More than 76,000 farm families in the state produce corn, soybeans, wheat, beef, pork, dairy products, and specialty crops. Illinois exports more than \$3.4 billion worth of agricultural products. The state's agribusiness activity is vibrant. From the Chicago area to Decatur and throughout Illinois, agricultural processing employs thousands of people. And, our researchers, at the University of Illinois as well as at other institutions, continue to help provide answers to some of the most common as well as the most complex agricultural questions we face.

With that said, the current downturn of agricultural prices is very troubling. Not just for Illinois' economy, but for the farm families who work to ensure that the state of Illinois, the country, and the world enjoy the safest and most abundant food supply.

Recently, I had visits in my Washington office from almost every agriculture group in the state. I heard, firsthand, how farm income will fall to \$42.5 billion in 1998, 20% lower than 1996 and 43% below the five year average. Meanwhile, total farm debt in 1998 has been estimated at \$172 billion, the highest level since 1985. This decline in farm income could lead to massive job loss in the agriculture sector and in agribusiness, not to mention what it will do to our family farms.

Last week, I hosted a roundtable discussion with 15 farmers in Springfield, Illinois to talk about the crisis in rural Illinois and America. It is clear that falling prices, the uncertainty with foreign markets—particularly in Asia and Russia, and poor weather conditions have contributed significantly to a severe economic crisis for our nation's farmers.

I heard stories about low prices. In central Illinois, the price of corn went from \$2.22/bu to \$1.66/bu between July 17 and August 31, a 21 percent decline over a six week period. During this same period, the price of soybeans went from \$6.50/bu to \$5.15/bu, also a 21% drop.

To further illustrate the seriousness of this crisis, it is important to look at this drop in commodity prices from a historical perspective. At the Shipman Elevator in Shipman, Illinois, the price of corn on September 18, 1998, was \$1.64/bu. On this same date in 1993, the price was \$2.17/bu. The price of soybeans at the Shipman Elevator on September 18, 1993 was \$6.14/bu compared to the September 18, 1998 price of \$5.00.

Livestock prices have also dropped dramatically. The price of hogs at Farmland in Monmouth, Illinois, went from \$54/cwt in September 1997 to \$39/cwt in March 1998 to \$29/cwt on September 18, 1998.

At these prices, I worry that a number of our nation's farmers will not be able to survive. Whether this means leaving farming altogether or simply not being able to make their basic payments, I fear we are facing a serious economic crisis in rural America. And, farmers won't be the only ones impacted by this crisis. In the past several weeks, two of the world's largest agricultural equipment manufacturers, Deere and Company, based in Moline, IL, and CASE Corporation, based in Racine, Wisconsin, have announced plans to reduce production and cut jobs. Both companies claim declining farm prices have reduced demand for their equipment. When American agriculture suffers, the effects are widespread, from equipment manufacturers to processors to commodity transporters.

Mr. President, Congress needs to demonstrate strong leadership in the face of this economic crisis. There are some short-term solutions which have already been considered by this chamber—removing the cap on marketing loans and extending their terms, authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to make emergency storage payments to farmers to encourage the use of marketing assistance loans, and replenishing the disaster reserve. Unfortunately, partisanship has gotten in the way of offering rural America a helping hand. This debate is not about the sanctity of the 1996 Farm Bill, it is about giving American agriculture some of the tools needed to improve economic conditions and regain stability.

The Administration, led by Secretary Glickman, has also offered some suggestions on how to address this crisis. They have put forward a \$7.1 billion package to aid farmers including \$2 billion in emergency disaster assistance. I welcome their proposal and leadership.

In my Springfield meeting I was also told that many farmers won't feel the effects of the current crisis until well after the harvest when the grain bins are full and prices are at all-time lows. And, many of the farm leaders who have appealed to Congress and the Administration for help are concerned that this crisis could stretch into years rather than months. In short, they don't see an end in sight.

Mr. President, Congress is scheduled to adjourn in less than two weeks. We